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AUGUSTA MEMORIAL BRIDGE 3-MONTH CLOSURE BEGINS SUNDAY FEBRUARY 26TH, 7AM

AUGUSTA –The full closure of Augusta Memorial Bridge begins on Sunday, February 26th and will last throughout much of the spring. MaineDOT strongly recommends that people use the new Augusta Third Bridge or the Gardiner Randolph Bridge to cross the Kennebec River, leaving the Father Curran Bridge for emergency vehicles and those doing business downtown.

"Because this week has been a vacation week for many, we want to make sure that people are getting the message that they will need to adjust their commute for Monday morning." said Wayne Frankhauser, MaineDOT Project Manager.

Travelers can save time and minimize traffic congestion by carpooling, traveling during off-peak hours, and using alternate routes. Augusta's new third bridge is off exit 113 on I-95. To the south, Veterans' Remembrance Bridge between Gardiner and Randolph is the best route.

Through trucks are prohibited from downtown Augusta during the 3-month closure. Downtown delivery trucks are allowed and drivers are reminded that

they should park in the new delivery parking spaces. "It only takes one double parked vehicle or one tractor trailer truck unable to make a turn or make it under the railroad bridge to tie up traffic downtown," said Steve Landry, Assistant State Traffic Engineer. "And downtown delays can quickly spread to the rest of the city," he added.

"We have made every effort to get the word out about this necessary bridge closure and the alternate routes that will save people time and aggravation," said Frankhauser. "We now have to rely on the public to change their driving habits for a few months. We understand that this is an inconvenience and appreciate everyone's patience and courtesy."

For more maps, directions and other information, the public can go to www.maine.dot.gov, where they can also sign up for email alerts.